

## **REMARKS**

### **Claims**

By the instant Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 2, and 38 have been amended, and claim 13 has been cancelled. Claims 1 to 12 and 14 to 41 are in the case.

Claim 1 and claim 38 have been amended to recite that the organophosphorus compound is neutral, and that the metal ions are selected from the group consisting of lanthanide series metal ions, transition metal ions and combinations thereof. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the medium is substantially non-aqueous. Neutral (non-acidic) organophosphorus compounds are well-known in the art (see page 3, lines 14 to 16) and the claimed method of decomposing neutral organophosphorus compounds is exemplified in working examples No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 17. The amendment to claim 1 wherein metal ions are "selected from the group consisting of lanthanide series metal ions, transition metal ions, and combinations thereof" finds support in claim 13 as originally filed. The amendment to claim 1 wherein the medium is substantially non-aqueous finds support in claim 38 as originally filed and at page 10, lines 23 to 29.

Claim 2 has been amended to recite that Q is a substituted or unsubstituted branched, straight-chain or cyclic alkyl group having 1 - 100 carbon atoms. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, at page 4, lines 7 to 8 and claim 2 as filed.

Claim 2 has also been amended to recite X, G, Z is SA. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in O,O'-diethyl-S-*p*-nitrophenylphosphothioate at page 20, line 15 and in Example 8 at page 38, line 15 to page 39, line 24.

Claim 2 has also been amended to recite that at least one of X, G, Z is not Q or QA. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in claim 2 as filed and in the discussion of the desirability of a good leaving group on page 19, lines 14 to 23.

Entry of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

No additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. If, however, this belief is in error and a fee is indeed due in respect of this submission, it may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 17-0110.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this Preliminary Amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned agent at 613-533-2342 would be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carol Miernicki Steeg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and registration number.

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